

Case 2541***Neamia octospina* Smith & Radcliffe, 1912 (Osteichthyes, Perciformes):
proposed conservation of the specific name**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is the conservation of the specific name *octospina* Smith & Radcliffe, 1912 of a widely distributed reef fish, by the suppression of the unused senior synonym *Apogon sphenurus* Klunzinger, 1884.

1. In a short comment at the end of his account of *Apogon coccineus*, Klunzinger (1884, p. 20) wrote that 'In Berlin there is a distinct species, *Apogon sphenurus* no. 74 named by Ehrenberg. It is distinct by the wedge shape of the caudal fin, as the median rays are the longest. It was never described'. This comment, clearly separating *A. sphenurus* from *A. coccineus* which has an emarginate caudal fin, has been overlooked by past authors. Ehrenberg had collected *A. sphenurus* from the Red Sea fifty years earlier.

2. In 1912 (p. 441) Smith & Radcliffe created a new genus, *Neamia*, to accommodate a small apogonid species from the Philippines, which they named *N. octospina* and designated as type species. This species is unique in the subfamily APOGONINAE in having 8 exposed spines in the first dorsal fin.

3. Gon (1987, p. 91) showed that the specimen of *A. sphenurus* referred to by Klunzinger (1884) is conspecific with the holotype of *N. octospina* Smith & Radcliffe, 1912 (specimen USNM 70251, United States National Museum, Washington). However, *Apogon sphenurus* Klunzinger, 1884 has never been used and to resurrect it now would cause destabilization of the nomenclature. On the other hand, *Neamia octospina* has always been used for this scarce but widely distributed species of the Indian and west Pacific Oceans. A list of ten representative references is held by the Commission Secretariat.

4. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the specific name *sphenurus* Klunzinger, 1884, as published in the binomen *Apogon sphenurus*, for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the name *Neamia* Smith & Radcliffe, 1912 (gender: feminine), type species by original designation *Neamia octospina* Smith & Radcliffe, 1912;
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *octospina* Smith & Radcliffe, 1912, as published in the binomen *Neamia octospina* (specific name of the type species of *Neamia* Smith & Radcliffe, 1912);

- (4) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology the name *sphenurus* Klunzinger, 1884, as published in the binomen *Apogon sphenurus* and as suppressed in (1) above.

References

- Gon, O. 1987. *Apogon sphenurus* Klunzinger, 1884, a senior synonym of *Neamia octospina* Smith et Radcliffe, 1912, with a redescription of the species. *Japanese Journal of Ichthyology*, **34** (1): 91–95.
- Klunzinger, C. B. 1884. *Fische des Rothen Meeres*. 133 pp. Stuttgart.
- Smith, H. M. & Radcliffe, L. 1912. In Radcliffe, [Scientific results of the Philippine cruise of the fisheries steamer 'Albatross', 1907–1910, no. 13]. Descriptions of fifteen new species of the family Cheilodipteridae, from the Philippine Islands and contiguous waters. *Proceedings of the United States National Museum*, **41**: 431–446.